

## **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

## **LASSEN COUNTY GOVERNMENT BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**Response Requested:** Board of Supervisors

**Complaint:** Members of the 2002/03 Grand Jury made complaints that members of the Lassen County Board of Supervisors vilified individual Jury Members with remarks in the news media, radio and statements to citizens of Lassen County.

**Findings:** Complaints were received that members of the 2002/03 Grand Jury were identified by profession and position on the Grand Jury and then vilified directly by members of the Lassen County Board of Supervisors in media releases and rebuttals to the Grand Jury. A tirade on a local radio station by a member of the Board of Supervisors, laced with sarcastic remarks, was particularly hurtful. The Grand Jury found that many conversations about town by these Supervisors were very pointed towards individual members of the 2002/03 Grand Jury. Past members of Grand Juries do not have a venue to rebut such action. That type of response by Lassen County Officials dampens the willingness of citizens to serve Lassen County in any capacity. Elected Officials swear to protect and uphold the Constitution; the Grand Jury system is a part of the Constitution of the State of California. The unselfish giving of many hours by members of the community to help fix a serious problem in Lassen County does not warrant vilification by elected officials who may personally dislike the grand jury system.

**Recommendation:** The Board of Supervisors respond to Grand Jury complaints in a positive manner and try to help where needed so that the public gets the best services possible in Lassen County.